

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 01183 282054Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /076 W

----- 095001

R 281750Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9198

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 1 8 3

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO, KN

SUBJECT: GOT REACTION TO EMBASSY'S NOTE ON NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA

REF: A. TAZSGPQSUHTMSBKVNOZAL) #

B. LOME 978 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SENT NOTE MAY 22 ASKING GOT NOT TO TELEVISION ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA SKITS FILMED DURING ONE OF NORTH KOREAN ACROBATS' LIVE PERFORMANCES IN LOME APRIL 25 AND 28 (REFTELS).

2. EVENING MAY 23, AFTER CALLING SEVERAL TIMES DURING DAY, SUCCEEDED IN REACHING FONOFF SYG DEMEDEIROS. EXPLAINED I HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DELIVERING NOTE PERSONALLY BY UNEXPECTED BUSINESS BUT WANTED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH HIM; HAD SENT IT BY MESSENGER ONLY TO GIVE HIM AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE ACTION REQUESTED. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED NOTE'S TIMELINESS BUT FELT EMBASSY WAS OVERREACTING TO INCIDENT, WHICH HE ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE. HE SAID HE HAD, NEVERTHELESS, TOLD BOTH FONMIN HUNLEDE AND PRESIDENT EYADEMA THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT CONSIDER MATTER AS SERIOUS AS WE MADE IT OUT, "GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACCEPT THIS IS EMBASSY'S VIEW AND SHOULD TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO GIVE SATISFACTION TO EMBASSY'S CONCERN." HE SAID MINISTER AND PRESIDENT HAD AGREED. I THANKED HIM, BUT POINT OUT WE HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOME 01183 282054Z

GOOD REASONS FOR FEELING "SENSITIVE" OR "OVER-REACTING," IF

SO IT APPEARED TO GOT: REMINDED HIM NEXT MONTH IS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH KOREAN INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA AND US HAD FOUGHT THREE YEARS TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA'S RIGHT TO EXIST. GIVEN AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT OF NORTH KOREANS AND UNCERTAINTIES OF POST-VIETNAM SITUATION I PERSONALLY FELT THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR COULD BE A DANGEROUS TIME. WE DID NOT CONSIDER, THEREFORE, THAT WE COULD DISREGARD THIS KIND OF PROPAGANDA IN A FRIENDLY COUNTRY. DE MEDEIROS (WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY TO THIS EMBASSY AND OFTEN FONDLY RECALLS HIS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON) SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION AS REASONABLE BACKGROUND TO OUR PROTESTS.

3. MAY 24 TELEVISION BROADCAST OF ACROBATS' PERFORMANCE WAS MONITORED BY PAO. DURING ONE-HOUR PROGRAM ONE POLITICAL SKIT OF LESS THAN TWO MINUTES DURATION WAS SHOWN, INVOLVING AMERICAN MP IN ASIAN DOCTOR'S OFFICE. PAO REPORTS IT WAS SLAPSTICK PANTOMINE. SOLDIER'S UNIFORM NOT EASILY RECOGNIZABLE, COULD ALMOST HAVE BEEN UNIVERSAL SOLDIER TYPE. UNINITIATED VIEWER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE MISSED POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. HE ESTIMATES IMPACT ON TV AUDIENCE WAS NEGLIGIBLE.

4. COMMENT: WE KNOW THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE SKITS IN TROUPE'S REPERTOIRE BUT DO NOT KNOW IF ALL WERE FILMED. SEEMS LIKELY THEY WERE, IN VIEW DEMEDEIROS'S STATEMENT, AND GOT CUT TWO OUT OF PROGRAM TO PLACATE EMBASSY. RELATIVELY LESS OFFENSIVE PIECE MAY HAVE BEEN RETAINED TO AVOID UNPLEASANTNESS WITH NORTH KOREANS. OVERALL WE THINK PROTEST WAS USEFUL AND RESULT WAS SATISFACTORY.

CURRAN

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOME01183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0958
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750514/aaaaambz.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT REACTION TO EMBASSY'S NOTE ON NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA
TAGS: PFOR, TO, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006